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## A CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

A SOUTHERN BENEDECTINE ABBEY.

Established in Gaston County, North Carolina, under the Title of the Abbey of St. Mary of Help.

BY DR. J. J. O'CONNELL.

The details of the establishment of a Benedictine abbey and college in North Carolina cannot fail to interest your readers, especially those who watch the progress of religion and science in the Southern States.

This is, indeed, one of the greatest strides made by the religious and educational orders of the Church since its organization under Archbishop Carroll in 1790. It is the renewing of the missionary spirit of the sons of St. Benedict, and the assertion of their ability to plant science, virtue, and learning in this remote region, as they had done for Europe after the dismemberment of the empire, when all civilization was swept away by the incessant wars of northern invasion.

Remote from great centres of population, and outside the settled currents of immigration, the attempt seemed destined to speedy defeat, possessing none of the ordinary elements of success conspicuous in modern enterprise of a similar nature. Scarcely numbering two thousand, and left penniless by the war, the Catholic body could afford no trustworthy encouragement. There was only a nominal parish, and some outside missions, running over several counties and numbering about 100 souls, scarcely able to pay the traveling expenses of the missionary.

Nothing daunted, Archbishop Wimmer, O. S. B., relying on divine aid, with the experience of his order for nearly fourteen centuries to direct him, at the invitation of his Grace, Archbishop Gibbons, D. D. at that time, the Vicar-Apostolic, accepted the gift of the Caldwell place, which I had purchased after the war at a bankrupt price, and transferred thither the first colony in 1876. Its continuation since was little short of miraculous.

The lay brothers, unacquainted with our Southern system of farming were unsuccessful in some departments of agriculture. The number of pupils were scarcely a score annually. Nearly all of the professors and most of the fathers were disheartened. Their sojourn was purely an act of obedience, and they entertained no hope of success. Instructed by the Archbishop, the Rev. Father Placidus Pilz O. S. B., faithfully erected a large brick building, now filled to its utmost capacity.

In 1884 the Archbishop, than whom there is not a more energetic prelate in our hierarchy, petitioned the Pope to confirm the action of the chapter creating two new abbeys, one in Newark, the other in North Carolina.

After mature deliberation his Holiness ratified the action of the chapter of St. Vincent, gave canonical existence, and established the "Abbey of St. Mary of Help; ad Rantum Mariam Auxiliatricem, as the See of Charleston.

The situation is of incalculable advantage for the moral training of boys. It is twelve miles by railroad from the nearest town, and sufficiently remote to save them from all contact with the seductions and temptations of city life. The healthiness of the locality is unsurpassed, and absolutely exempt from all malaria, with a climate mild in summer and temperate in winter. None has died, none has lost health from the beginning, wholesome, whether students or religious, who had arrived in a desperate state of infirmity, were speedily restored to usefulness.

The Piedmont range of the Carolinas is exempt from the long and stormy winters of Asheville and the mountain section. The county is settled by the descendants of our first colonists, who are law-abiding, sober, thrifty and moral. Longevity is the normal condition of human life, and the graveyard rather than the hearse the solemn monitor of mortality. Fresh meat and all the unadulterated country produce can be purchased at the door of the store-room. Milk is milk and butter is butter; consequently the boys are blooming with ruddy and ruddy health.

At the election held at St. Vincent's Abbey in 1885, the Rev. James Zilliox, O. S. B. was chosen for Newark, and the Rev. Oswald Moosmuller, O. S. B., of Savannah, for North Carolina. The latter, from motives of humility declined the dignity and the care. After some months, the Rev. Leo Haid, O. S. B., was unanimously selected for this arduous mission from among many other distinguished and learned fathers. Raised from boyhood in the monastery, and thoroughly imbued with the monastic spirit, his administrative abilities and notable success in the education of youth led to the choice, his clerics now filling many of the honorable and learned professions in the country.

The election of the Right Rev. Leo Haid, O. S. B., was speedily ratified

by his Holiness, Leo XIII. He was consecrated by the Right Rev. Bishop Northrop, D. D., in Charleston, on Thanksgiving day November 26, 1885. The Right Rev. Dr. Rhademacher, Bishop of Nashville, delivered an eloquent sermon on the occasion. The laity of the city thronged the cathedral. In the sanctuary were most of the diocesan clergy, many from abroad, and five mitred abbots. These were the Right Rev. Archabbott Wimmer, O. S. B., of St. Vincent; the Right Rev. Alexius Edelbrock, O. S. B., of St. John's, Minnesota; the Right Rev. Innocent Wolf, O. S. B., of Atkinson, and the Right Rev. James Zilliox, O. S. B., of Newark. Father John accompanied Abbot Innocent.

They all subsequently visited the new Abbey, examined the premises, expressed unfeigned pleasure at all they had seen, admired the progress made in organization, and imparted their blessing on the nascent community.

A noble specimen of Western manhood, Abbot Alexius was the admired of Southern chivalry.

This is one of the most remarkable events that has occurred in the ecclesiastical history of the Carolinas, and the most brilliant ceremony ever witnessed in the city of Charleston. Close by were the mouldering remains of the great Dr. England, the founder of the see, and those of his lamented successors, Bishops Reynolds and Lynch, whose labors were so signally blessed. Abbot Haid preached on the monastic state in the afternoon for an hour to a delighted audience. He is a native of Pennsylvania, on the sunny side of 40, over the medium height, with aquiline features, figure slender and active, and hair and beard coal black. Though of German descent, he seems inclined rather to the French type of manhood. He is deservedly esteemed one of the foremost pulpits orators in America. Unconscious of self, his every sermon is an entire tract—embracing all the important truths bearing on the subject. Its leading features are distinctly traced in a rich, sonorous voice, and relieved by appropriate ornament. None tires at listening at him. America is proud of her native born Abbot. The south welcomes him and his devoted band into her hospitable domain.

Perhaps none else could be found better adapted to his situation or equally capable to found a new abbey. He attends personally to every department, and seems ubiquitous. In the fields, at the workshops, in chapter, at the altar, in the choir from 4 o'clock a. m. until 8 o'clock p. m. at the canonical hours, and in the class room, he teaches the students personally five hours daily. In the wide domain of the church there can exist no monastery more observant; it is a school of all Christian perfections sedulously copied in the life and manners of these meek followers of the Lord. If St. Benedict returned to earth, North Carolina is the last cloister in which he would introduce a reformation.

The same vigilance and paternal care extends to the students, now numbering about fifty gentle and orderly youths, representing many respectable households in the South. Their religious and scientific training and their health and manners are promoted with rare efficiency. This labor all ready fructifies. The Abbot finds it necessary to commence another building, 120 feet long and other dimensions in proportion, to accommodate the increasing patronage of the coming year. Within the space of a few months the general aspect of all things is altered for the better, novices and postulants received, the community fixed on a solid basis, the missions sedulously attended, fervent priests put in the charge of each, three new buildings erected, and more than all, the reign of piety and peace triumphant throughout the entire enclosure.

The Abbot is not alone and unaided. He is sustained by devotion and zealous co-laborers like the companions of A. Boniface in Germany. There are a dozen or more saintly lay brothers and half that number of clergymen.

The Rev. William Mayer, O. S. B., after aiding to build up the Abbey, has been transferred to Richmond, where he now edifies and adorns St. Mary's Church. The Rev. Julius Pohl, O. S. B., is the learned and pious rector of the college. The Revs. George Lester, O. S. B., Patrick Donlon, O. S. B., Walter Leahy, O. S. B., Roman Kirchner, O. S. B., Charles Mohr, O. S. B., are learned and accomplished professors. They made the novitiate and solemn profession previous to their advent.

At the Christmas Quatuorcentenary, the zealous Bishop Northrop ordained the three former priests and both the other deacons. They are young men and devoted monks, the most coadjutors of the Abbot in founding an institution in which the spirit of St. Benedict will, with divine aid, be preserved

ed and perpetuated to the end of time. Father Patrick has pastoral charge of the slim congregation at Concord, and Father Walter of St. Mary and Joseph at Gaston. Abbot Leo has organized a special service for the negroes on Sunday afternoon, which he attends in person; hitherto, alas, with but small profit. The harvest may yet be abundant.

Abbey of St. Mary of Help, Gaston county, N. C.

## THE PORPOISE FISHERIES.

A New Industry on the North Carolina Coast.

The manufacture of leather and oil from the porpoise is an industry, which in this country is confined exclusively to Cape Hatteras.

There are other very excellent

places among the Southern sea coast suitable to the business but none of them possess the advantages of Hatteras. Which, owing to the peculiar formation of the beach, its proximity to the big North Carolina Sounds, and the character of its inhabitants, all of whom are born fishermen, make it fittingly the place for the business.

There are two companies at work there. The Wilmington Oil and Leather Company and the American. The first of these own either by lease or purchase about one third of the beach front and their works are about 2 miles from Hatteras inlet. The company has been very successful so far and its stock is selling above par. The American Oil and Leather Company and a Virginia company working under a charter from that stock has done no business there this summer, but will erect works this winter. The agent of the company is in England now trying to engage experienced tanners who understand the working of the leather. Previous attempts to tan this leather by American workmen, have not proved successful, and the home made material heretofore sold here cannot compare with English work, which has been hurtful to the sale of it. The oil is used as lubricators and is good if not better, than sperm. It being entirely free from any fatty or animal substance. The meat and bone is made up into a fertilizer, and the fins and tails are made into glue, consequently none of the porpoise is wasted. During the past season, a remarkably severe one by the way, the people of Hatteras were supported almost entirely by this business. If successful as seems it will be, the porpoise fisheries along the Atlantic Coast in the years to come, will be of invaluable benefit to the poor dwellers along these desolate and barren shores.

The porpoises are caught by seines which are carried out from shore in large boats and put around them as they feed beyond the breakers, some, times a many as 200 are caught at a time. The profits of the business are considerable, when the price of catching is compared. On a 5000 catch which would be a good years work with three or four seines. The profits on an economical basis amount to nearly \$20,000.

There is plenty of room for those who want to engage in the business, for the demand for the material will always exceed the supply.

But like any other business of its kind, its success depends on the labor employed. Two much care cannot be exercised in handling the leather and oil. It will not do to depend on it. Nature is entirely to do this work. S. C. SHIPP.

## A RECORD OF DEATH.

FROM THE EIGHTH CENTURY UP TO THE PRESENT.

A Succinct Account of the Most Destructive Earthquakes the World has Ever Seen—Towns and Cities Upturned Thousands Killed.

The following is a succinct record of the most destructive earthquakes which have been recorded from the eighth century down to the present time:

742—Awful earthquake in Spria, Palestine and Asia; 500 towns were destroyed, and the loss of life surpassed all calculation.

1137—Catania, in Sicily, overturned and 15,000 persons buried in the ruins.

1158—In Syria, etc.; 20,000 per-

ished.

1265—In Sicilia, 50,000 perished.

1455, Dec 5—At Naples, 40,000 perished.

1509, Sept 14—Constantinople; thousands perished.

1534, Feb 26—At Lisbon 1,500 houses and 30,000 persons buried in the ruins; several neighboring towns engulfed.

1596 July 2—In Japan, several cities made ruins and thousands perished.

1626 July 30—In Naples 30 towns or villages ruined; 70,000 lives lost.

1667, April 6—Ragusa ruined; 5,000 perished.

1667—At Schamaki, lasted three months; 80,000 perished.

1672 April 14—At Rimiei; above 1,500 perished.

1692 June 7—On the Island of Jamaica, which totally destroyed Port Royal, whose houses were engulfed 40 fathoms deep, and 3,000 perished.

1693 Sept—One in the Island of Sicily, which overturned 54 cities and towns and 300 villages; of Catania and its 18,000 inhabitants not a trace remained; more than 100,000 lives were lost.

1703, Feb 2—Aquila, in Italy, ruined; 5,000 perished.

1703—Jeddo, Japan, ruined; 200,000 perished.

1706, Nov 3—In the Abruzzi; 15,000 perished.

1716, May and June—At Algiers; 20,000 perished.

1826, Sep 1—Palermo nearly destroyed; nearly 6,000 lives lost.

1831, Nov 30—Again in China, and 100,000 people swallowed up at Peking.

1832, Nov 29—In Naples, etc.; 1840 perished.

1746, Oct 28—Lima and Calao demolished; 13,000 persons buried in the ruins.

1754, Sept—At Grand Cairo; half the houses and 40,000 persons swallowed up.

1755, June 7—Kaschan N Persia, destroyed; 40,000 perished.

1780—At Tauris; 15,000 houses thrown down and multitudes buried.

1783, Feb 5—Messina and other towns in Italy and Sicily overthrown; thousands perished.

1784, July 23—Fzinhian, near Erzeroum, destroyed, and 5,000 persons buried in its ruins.

1797, Feb 4—The whole country between Santa Fe and Panama destroyed, including Cuzco and Quito; 40,000 people buried in one second.

1805, July 26—At Frosolone, Naples; 6,000 lives lost.

1812, March 16—At Caracas; 12,000 perished.

1819, June 16—Several throughout India; district of Kutch sunk; 2,000 persons buried.

1822—Aleppo destroyed; above 20,000 perished; shocks on the 10th and 13th of August and 5th of September.

1829, March 17—In Spain; Murcia and numerous villages devastated; 6,000 persons perished.

1830, May 26 and 27—Canton and neighborhood; about 6,000 perished.

1846, Feb 14—At Ternate; the Island made a waste, and thousands of lives lost.

1842, May 7—At Cape Haytien, St. Domingo, which destroyed nearly two-thirds of the town; between 4,000 and 5,000 lives were lost.

1851, Aug 14—In South Italy; Melfi almost laid in ruins; 14,000 lives lost.

1856, March 2—At the Island of Great Sauger, one of the Moluccas; volcanic eruption and earthquake, nearly 3,000 lives lost.

1857, Sept 16—In Calabria, Montemurro, another town was destroyed, and about 10,000 lives lost.

1859, March 22—At Quito, about 5,000 persons killed and an immense amount of property destroyed.

1861, March 20—At Mendoza, South America, about two-thirds of the city and 7,000 lives lost.

1863, July 2 and 3—Manilla, Philippine Isles; immense destruction of property; about 10,000 persons perished.

1868, August 13 15—The cities of Arequipa, Iquique, Tacn and Chuchaca and many small towns in Peru and Ecuador destroyed; about 25,000 lives lost and 30,000 rendered homeless; loss of property estimated at \$60,000,000.

1875, May 16-18—San Jose de Cututa and other towns near Santander, on the boundary of Columbia, destroyed; about 15,000 lives said to be lost.

1873 April 14—Cua, Venezuela, nearly destroyed; about 300 killed; loss about \$30,000.

1881, March 16—Severe shocks in South Italy; much destruction and loss of life at Cassaniciola a town on the Isle of Ischia; 289 houses destroyed. 114 lives lost, about \$38,000 loss. March 4, more destruction by another shock.

1881, April 3—Scio, the town and several villages destroyed; about 4,000 perished; much destitution ensued successive shock beginning at 1:30 p. m.

1883, July 23—The towns of Oasamiciola, Forio and Lacco Ameno, on the Island Ischia, in the Bay of Naples, almost entirely destroyed; 1,990 lives lost, and 374 persons injured.

1883, Aug 26—The Krakatoa cataclysm in Java, in August, which was the most stupendous on record. An island was shattered and sunk, and sixteen others raised their heads above the surrounding waters. nearly 100,000 people were buried beneath volcanic debris or swept off the face of the land by the volcanic wave. The floor of the ocean over a wide area to the southeast of Sumatra was raised into a plain above the waters, and the effects of the general upheaval were felt as far as the American coast of the Pacific.

1884-5—A long continued series of shocks in the Sprinsh peninsula, which began on December 26, 1884, and continued with irregular interruptions until the middle of April, 1885. The greatest destruction of life and property was in Andalusia. Altogether 745 persons were killed and 1,485 injured, and 17,000 buildings were more or less damaged, 4,400 of the number being completely wrecked. Widespread destitution and suffering resulted from this visitation. Towards the close of November there was a renewal of the disturbances, which extended also to the adjacent African coast.

1885—A series of shocks began in the Vale of Cashmere on May 13, and continued at irregular intervals until the middle of August. The city of Serinagur and numerous villages were almost completely destroyed, thousands of lives were lost, and great destitution resulted from the killing of cattle and destruction of crops.

1886, August 28—In the Morea and the neighboring island of Zante, several villages being completely destroyed and 300 lives lost.

## STORIES OF THE WAR.

INTERESTING ANECDOTES OF BOTH THE BLUE AND GREY.

Schuyler Colfax's Anecdote of Secretary Stanton.—Stonewall Jackson at Harper's Ferry.

When Harper's Ferry surrendered to "Stonewall" Jackson in September, 1862, Gen. Jackson halted his horse in front of the Ninth Vermont, and taking off his hat solemnly said: "Boys don't feel bad; you could not help it; it was just as God willed it."

One of Jackson's staff asked Col. Stannard of the Ninth Vermont if he had anything to drink. Stannard courteously handed him his flask, and the young Confederate Captain poured out a horn and arrogantly said: "Colonel, here is to the health of the Southern Confederacy."

Stannard answered: "To ask and accept a courtesy of a prisoner and then insult him is an act that an honorable soldier would scorn."

Jackson turned on his staff officer and gave him a severe scolding, saying the repetition of such an insult would cost him his place. Then turning to Col. Stannard Gen. Jackson apologized for the conduct of his officer, saying that it was an exceptional act of insolence on the part of a young and reckless man; and, bowing gravely, the famous Confederate Captain rode away.

Schuyler Colfax used to tell the following anecdote of Secretary Stanton's severity:

After the war had become such a dread reality that our land was filled with weeds of mourning, the tide of volunteering had ceased and conscription to fill up our regiments at the front, thinned by disease and death, was a necessity, every Congressman at Washington had, daily, numerous applications from the district for military discharges on account of the death of a father, wife or child, to go home to be nursed into health, to attend important business, etc., all of which had to be presented to the secretary, who often stood at a desk, to give quicker audience to all.

One morning, when a number of us were presenting these petitions, but with very few exceptions to be answered 'No' by the stern secretary, a sad faced lady in black entered the room, and we all drew back that she might present her application to him at once. Few as were her words, I can never forget till my dying day their sorrowful tone.

"When the war broke out I had a happy family of a loving husband and two brave sons. We gave both of our boys to the country. One of them was killed in battle, and my husband is now dead. I ask you to give me back my son, all I have left now."

"I cannot," replied the apparently impassive secretary.

"Cannot!" she exclaimed, "Certainly you could not have understood me," and then she repeated the touching story of her family.

"I repeat that I cannot," again Mr. Stanton replied.

"Have you any heart?"

"No madam, I cannot have one here," answered the inflexible secretary. But writing a line with his signature on a card—he added, "Take this to the White House, and you will find there a man who has a heart."

And, as she went thither to receive from Mr. Lincoln the boon she desired, and which Mr. Stanton had recommended to the President the secretary went on rejecting our applications, explaining as the reason, "The country is dying for want of soldiers, and till the tide of battle turns and the nation is safe, the living at home must bury their dead."

HON. T. F. BAYARD.

President Cleveland's Secretary of State—A Sketch of his Life.

The foreign policy of Secretary of State Bayard has been so much criticised and commented upon since the selection of Minister Phelps, that it has made the Delaware statesman an object of national interest.

Mr. Bayard was born at Wilmington, Delaware, October 29, 1829. He was chiefly educated at Flushing School, and his early training was for a mercantile life. After having had some experience in business in New York he returned to Delaware and studied law with his father, James A. Bayard, who was then in the Senate.

He was admitted to the bar in '51 and in '53 he was appointed United States District Attorney for Delaware, but resigned in '54 and went to live in Philadelphia. He was retained until '56, when he returned to Wilmington, where he remained through the civil war, practicing his profession.

In the winter of '68-'69 he was elected to the Senate to succeed his father, and was re-elected in '75 and '81. In '76 he was a member of the Electoral Commission. Mr. Bayard is the fourth of his family who have served in the Senate.